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An introduction which explains the value of information centers in aiding the flow of knowledge in person to person communication of information is followed by references to print sources and information centers. Print sources, listed to show continuity in the "people-print-people" cycle, are offered on the subjects of education, public health and safety, business, labor, employment, economics, and government. In addition, the directories of the National Referral Center for Science and Technology which lead the search to other sources of information, are described. Information centers are listed according to the same subject areas as the above print sources, each reference containing a brief descriptive passage. (SP)

GPO 870-390

ED 032 437

AN OCCASIONAL PAPER FROM

ERIC at Stanford

ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Media and Technology
at the Institute for Communication Research, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. 94305

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SOCIAL ISSUES: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, POPULATION, ETC.

A Brief Guide for Journalists and Others

William Paisley
Stanford University

An Occasional Paper from ERIC at Stanford

September 1969

AA 000 401

FOREWORD

I was asked to compile this guide for a Stanford broadcast journalists' seminar on social research and social issues. (If you are a broadcast journalist, let me know how useful you find it. If you are not, let me know anyway.) I have assembled different sources from those found in similar guides*, for two reasons:

1. Broadcast media generally maintain smaller reference facilities than print media. There are fewer books on the shelf and fewer clippings in the file. Therefore it may be harder for broadcast journalists to lay hands on the specialized sources that guides usually recommend.

2. There is a trend in this country toward person-to-person information service, in the form of information centers staffed by subject experts. Most of these centers are new -- the result of recent federal legislation -- and they are not listed in other guides. I cannot describe them all, but enough are listed to show you a resource that is more current than reference books, more detailed

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* For example, at the scholarly level, SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (cited below), and, for journalists, FINDING FACTS, by William L. Rivers (New York: Magazine Publishers Association, revised edition in press).

than periodicals, flexible in answering the unusual question, and talkative.

This guide draws both on my own experience as a researcher and on other guides and directories. Chief among the latter:

White, Carl M., *et al.* SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. Totowa, New Jersey: The Bedminster Press, 1964.

Committee on Scientific and Technical Information, Federal Council for Science and Technology. DIRECTORY OF FEDERALLY SUPPORTED INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTERS. April, 1968. Available from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia, 22151.

Gates, Jesse L., & Altman, James W. HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION SOURCES IN EDUCATION AND THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES. Pittsburgh: American Institutes for Research, 1968.

National Referral Center for Science and Technology. A DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1967.

This is very much a first draft, a first approximation to a guide that journalists might find useful. When I receive

reaction to what's out that should be in and in that should be out, I shall be happy to revise it.

WJP

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I. THE SPECTRUM OF INFORMATION SOURCES

On August 18, 1969, *Newsweek* published a note on the retirement of Harry Romanoff from *Chicago Today* (formerly *Herald-Examiner*) after 50 years, the last 30 as night city editor: "He could get more news over the phone from his office than ten men in the field, and he could make anyone believe he was anything." They say that Romanoff posed as the Chicago chief of police, a priest, a bishop, a lawyer, a member of the opposition paper, and the President of the United States: "Top officials and the Red Cross of Texas City, Texas, thought they were talking to the White House as they poured out the story of the disastrous 1947 explosion and fire to Romy."

Romanoff had his critics, even beyond the opposition paper. However, "those who might not approve of his methods concede that Romy's brand of aggressive, digging journalism may be needed in this era of handouts and meaningless press conferences."

From People to Print and Back to People Again

Impersonating priests and presidents eventually backfires on a journalist. It may be just as effective and less nerve-wracking to work through the full spectrum

of information sources, "from people to print and back to people again." That is, as you move outward from your own head, the first information sources you meet are other people -- co-workers, family, friends. They may not know what you need to know, but it doesn't cost much to ask. People are "switching mechanisms;" they provide leads to information they lack themselves. (Studies of scientists show that they, too, depend more on co-workers than on books and journals.)

When people don't know the answer, the leads they provide are often to print sources. That's how we get "from people to print." The great encyclopedias, the specialized reference books, and the scholarly journals deserve the respect our society accords them. If a visitor from another planet were to drop in, who can doubt that the collections of the Library of Congress would weight his opinion of us more than Saturn V on its launching pad?

Print sources have their shortcomings, though, when the needed information is very detailed or very special. Then we would rather talk to an expert, so that he could explain, exemplify, and adapt information to our needs. Furthermore, experts are the first to know of recent developments. They enjoy a time advantage over print sources because they *create* the print sources. Thus, for current, detailed, and special

information, we go "to print and back to people again."

Not all experts are equally accessible to the journalist. The genius, the Nobel Laureate, and the abstract theoretician may not answer a journalist's questions except on the specialties to which they devote themselves. Many other experts, however, have public obligations to discharge. They are directors of laboratories, hospitals, and educational institutions. They are public officials. Most importantly, in terms of accessibility, they are associated with information centers.

For example, the ERIC Information Retrieval Center on the Disadvantaged, at Columbia University, is directed by Dr. Edmund Gordon, a recognized authority on the scope of that center ("the educational, psychological, social, and general development of urban children and youth who are socially, economically, or culturally disadvantaged"). Gordon and his subject specialists prepare papers, bibliographies, bulletins, etc., on the problems of the disadvantaged. They also respond to questions, as time and resources allow.

For another example, the National Clearinghouse for Mental Health Information has a senior staff of five professionals, four of them holding doctorates. They respond to "complex inquiries for which detailed subject-matter background and judgment are required."

With staffs like these, information centers can take up questions where books leave off (of course, experts consult books themselves; they even know which books to consult). Thanks to an emerging national network of information centers in most fields of specialized knowledge, and thanks to a new appreciation of the role of other people in the flow of information*, the strategy of moving "from people to print and back to people again" can yield information of any needed depth.

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* "The role of other people in the flow of information" is one of the most interesting themes in communication research. Several chapters in THE SCIENCE OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION (Wilbur Schramm, Ed., New York: Basic Books, 1963) summarize research on this theme.

II. TO PRINT....

I warn you in advance that this review of print sources is suggestive rather than exhaustive. There are other guides to print sources that can serve your needs. A good example is Rivers' FINDING FACTS (cited in the Foreword), newly revised and updated. I list print sources only to show continuity in the "people-print-people" cycle. Here are print sources that people refer you to. Some of the print sources (I list four at the end of this section) lead you back to people again; others lead you deeper into the maze of print. Following the first road is called "obtaining answers to questions." Following the second road is called "scholarship." Both have their gratifications, but to different people at different times with different uses for the information.

Let's assume that these standard sources do not need to be described:

The major encyclopedias

The major dictionaries

The almanacs

WHO'S WHO, including regional and special editions

The NEW YORK TIMES INDEX

The READER'S GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE

BOOKS IN PRINT

These general guides to who, what, where, when, and how have counterparts in the social sciences, in education, in public health, etc. Some are described here; others can be found in two "supersources" cited in the Foreword: SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES and HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION SOURCES IN EDUCATION AND THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES.

The best of the general encyclopedias (choose your favorite) has its counterpart in the new INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (David L. Sills, Ed., New York: Macmillan and the Free Press, 1968). The INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA covers the gamut from "academic freedom" and "access to politics" to "Zionism" in 16 volumes, with an entire 17th volume devoted to the Index. It is authoritative, and it comes close to being a sufficient single source for research evidence and informed opinion on all "social issues."

The INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA doesn't cover -- was never intended to cover -- raw data. Social, economic, and political demography is covered in such sources as THE STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES, the UNESCO STATISTICAL YEARBOOK, and the WORLD HANDBOOK OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INDICATORS. The STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (Washington: Government Printing Office, annual) is a principal summary of Census data. The entire range of vital statistics, from crime

to education, is tabulated with previous time points for comparison. The simplest way to describe the UNESCO STATISTICAL YEARBOOK (published at irregular intervals by UNESCO and distributed through the UNESCO Publications Center in New York) is to characterize it as an international STATISTICAL ABSTRACT that emphasizes population, education, and communication media. The WORLD HANDBOOK OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INDICATORS (Bruce M. Russett *et al.*, Eds., New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1964) is a compilation of data not only from UNESCO but also from the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, etc., with careful footnoting of the errors that can creep into international data.

Counterparts to the READER'S GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE, but providing content synopses as well as citations, are PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS and SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS. PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (Washington: American Psychological Association, bimonthly) is a bit less "policy-oriented" than SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (New York: Sociological Abstracts, Inc., eight issues per year), because it covers physiological psychology, animal psychology, etc., as well as social and organizational psychology. You have to guess whether your topic is covered by PA or SA, and the boundary between the two is never clear.

There is one social science source that has no counterpart among general publications. That is HUMAN BEHAVIOR, by Bernard Berelson and Gary Steiner (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964). HUMAN BEHAVIOR summarizes a vast amount of research evidence in psychology, sociology, and anthropology, proceeding from one major category of behavior ("perception," "communication," etc.) to another. Findings are organized under propositions (hypotheses, or assertions) about human behavior that they illuminate. Even scholars who distrust the compression of findings (because limitations in research procedure tend to be ignored) nevertheless use HUMAN BEHAVIOR as a guide to the literature in each area.

Education

The literature of education was more orderly ten years ago, before the government began investing heavily in educational research after Sputnik. We have a mountain of educational information now, and information services are straining to scale it.

There are three important guides to the journal and report literature of education. EDUCATION INDEX (New York: H.W. Wilson, monthly) and CURRENT INDEX TO JOURNALS IN EDUCATION (New York: CCM Information Sciences, monthly) both

cover the journal literature, but they overlap only partially in journals indexed. EDUCATION INDEX follows a topical outline that librarians have grown accustomed to, while the newer CIJE follows the U.S. Office of Education's Thesaurus of Educational Terms. This makes its indexing compatible with RESEARCH IN EDUCATION (Washington: Government Printing Office, monthly), which is the Office of Education's abstract service covering reports and books. CIJE and RIE are the reference tools of the Educational Resources Information Centers, described in Section III.

The U.S. Office of Education publishes two source books of great value. EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY (Washington: Government Printing Office, annual) consists of five volumes: (1) Officers of education programs, by state; (2) All public school systems enrolling 300 or more students, by state; (3) Accredited institutions of higher education, by state; (4) Educational associations; (5) Education agencies and personnel within the Federal Government.

DIGEST OF EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1966) is a kind of STATISTICAL ABSTRACT for American education. It stresses quantities: number of institutions, number of programs, number of students, number of dollars spent.

One dated but still useful guide that covers other

educational literature is HOW TO LOCATE EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND DATA: AN AID TO QUICK UTILIZATION OF THE LITERATURE OF EDUCATION (Carter Alexander & Arvid J. Burke, Eds., New York: Columbia University Teachers College, 1958). It includes materials from educational associations -- most of which publish prolifically.

Public Health and Safety

Medicine is a highly technical field. It may not help us to know that INDEX MEDICUS is the authoritative guide to medical literature -- a highly technical literature may raise more questions in our minds than it answers.

Fortunately, government agencies have published many guides on public health and safety. Just a few of the books and pamphlets available from the U.S. Public Health Service are:

AIR POLLUTION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES (1965)

CIGARETTE SMOKING, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, AND EMPHYSEMA (1965)

DIABETES SOURCE BOOK (1964)

HANDBOOK OF HEART TERMS (1964)

UNDERSTANDING THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM (1962)

In addition, there are about 140 titles in the HEALTH INFORMATION SERIES of brief pamphlets on specific diseases and disabilities.

A sample of titles from the middle of the list includes:

PEPTIC ULCER (1966)

TYPHOID FEVER (1963)

LEUKEMIA (1964)

CANCER OF THE SKIN (1966)

The Food and Drug Administration publishes such titles as:

REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT (1964)

FDA APPROVAL OF NEW DRUGS: FACTS FOR CONSUMERS (1964)

FACTS FOR CONSUMERS: FOOD STANDARDS TO PROMOTE HONESTY AND FAIR DEALING IN THE INTEREST OF CONSUMERS (1964)

Representative booklets on safety include:

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN EMERGENCIES (PHS, 1964)

CLINICAL HANDBOOK ON ECONOMIC POISONS: EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR TREATING POISONS (PHS, 1963)

CONTROL OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARDS (Labor Standards Bureau, 1962)

Ordering information for these and other publications of the government can be found in the MONTHLY CATALOG OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, issued by the Government printing Office.

For bibliographic leads to the specialized medical literature, you can consult quite a number of medical

dictionaries and encyclopedias. The good general encyclopedias also contain detailed articles on this topic, with bibliographies.

Business, Labor, Employment, Economics

The WALL STREET JOURNAL INDEX covers developments in this field, with reference to stories that appear in that newspaper, and the BUSINESS PERIODICALS INDEX reports on journal and magazine contents at its more leisurely pace. WSJI is published by Dow Jones in New York and issued monthly. BPI is published by H.W. Wilson in New York and also issued monthly.

The guide, BUSINESS INFORMATION: HOW TO FIND AND USE IT (Marian C. Hanley, New York: Harper, 1955) is highly recommended despite its age. There are numerous specific guides to subfields like labor relations, finance, etc.; they are cited in SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.

Government

The mysteries of the Federal Government are partly explicated in two massive manuals, updated regularly. The UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MANUAL covers the executive branch of government with only a cursory review of the legislative and judicial branches. The OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY FOR THE USE OF CONGRESS provides

biographies of members of the Senate and House, maps of the Congressional districts, and much organizational information.

Most agencies also tell their own story (PRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, STORY OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, ANVIL AND PLOUGH: HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR). Others issue summaries related to their mission: REFERENCE FACTS ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, etc.

Print Sources that Lead Back to People

The National Referral Center for Science and Technology (an information center mentioned in Section III) has published a unique series of guides that belong on every journalist's "one-foot shelf" of information on information, or how-to-find-out standbys. Under contract to the National Referral Center, Columbia University's Bureau of Applied Social Research surveyed universities, corporations, public agencies, etc., to compile lists of "information resources," centers of expertise where questions would be accepted and answered. Most institutions listed are *not* information centers; they answer questions because they *want* to, and their major activity is usually research or production.

Compiled partly from the BASR data and partly from the National Referral Center's own files, four directories have been published thus far:

A DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: PHYSICAL SCIENCES, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING (1965)

A DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: SOCIAL SCIENCES (1965)

A DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: WATER (1966)

A DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (1967)

All are obtainable from the Government Printing Office, and their average price is two dollars.

My enthusiasm for this series is tempered only slightly by the unevenness of entries. An excerpt from the middle of the first volume shows the diversity of listings:

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, SWAIN LIBRARY OF CHEMISTRY

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE

STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

STEEL FOUNDERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

STEIN ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.

STOW MANUFACTURING CO.

STRAUB CLINIC

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

And, from the social sciences volume:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, MAP LIBRARY

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, TECHNICAL LIBRARY

TEXAS GULF COAST HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

TUFTS UNIVERSITY, EDWIN GINN LIBRARY

TUFTS UNIVERSITY, HUMAN ENGINEERING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE

TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND

UNITED COMMUNITY FUNDS AND COUNCILS OF AMERICA, INC.

UNITED NATIONS, STATISTICAL OFFICE

U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

The fourth volume differs from the first three in its focus on a sponsor (the Federal Government) rather than a topic or field of research. It is divided between information resources *within* the government and information resources *supported by* the government. Most of the latter are located at universities.

The interests, holdings, and services of each institution are described, together with mailing address and telephone number. For example, in the fourth volume the National Referral Center is itself listed, with this entry:

NATIONAL REFERRAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Library of Congress
1st St. and Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540

Tel: (202) 967-8265

Areas of Interest: Governmental, industrial, academic, public, and private organizations and institutions, and individuals, who have specialized knowledge in any area of the physical, biological, engineering, or social sciences.

Holdings: An inventory of information resources in the United States. The inventory includes broad and specific areas of interest for each organization or individual, holdings, (literature and report collections, unpublished data, specimen collections, etc.), titles of representative publications, and the types of information services available.

Publications: [As listed above.]

Information Services: Provides names, addresses, telephone numbers, and brief descriptions of appropriate information resources. The Center does not provide technical details in answer to inquiries nor furnish bibliographic assistance. It functions as an intermediary, directing those who have questions concerning specific subjects to organizations or individuals with specialized knowledge of those subjects. Services are available without charge, by telephone, correspondence, or through personal visits.

The National Referral Center's listing is somewhat peculiar, because of its status as a "supersource." A more typical listing:

NATIONAL CENTER FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

U.S. Public Health Service
3rd and C sts., S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Tel: (202) 962-8035

Areas of Interest: Bibliographic control of worldwide technical literature relating to air pollution.

Information Services: Answers inquiries; makes referrals.

If you need specific details or general background for an air-pollution story, a call to the NATIONAL CENTER FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL will be faster than a visit to the library, and probably more productive. Print sources will still be involved, at their end or your end, but the person-to-person "negotiation" of your question will save wasted time in the *wrong* print sources.

III. TO PEOPLE AGAIN

The following list of information centers, crudely categorized by topic, emphasizes governmental and quasi-governmental organization or sponsorship. Listing an information center is equivalent to giving away its services. Other things being equal, I'd rather give away tax-supported services than private services.

One information center resembles the National Referral Center in the breadth of its coverage. That is the Smithsonian Institution's SCIENCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE (1730 M St., N.W. 20036; Tel: 381-5511).* SIE answers questions on research *in progress* in the United States. It keeps track of projects for which no published reports exist, thus closing the time gap between the beginning of research projects and their documentation in "the literature." SIE was established for scientists, to avoid duplication of effort, but it is equally capable of answering a journalist's question, such as, "Who is conducting research on the effects of *marijuana*, where, to what end, and under whose sponsorship?"

The topical list that follows was culled from several sources and personal experience according to my subjective

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* Hereafter, unless otherwise specified, addresses are Washington, D.C. and telephone numbers are Area Code 202.

estimate of the "newsworthiness" of the areas represented. The question was, "On what social issues will news stories and background pieces be printed (broadcast) in the next few years?" Of course, your guess is as good as mine. To fill in gaps in this list of information centers, you need only consult the DIRECTORY OF FEDERALLY SUPPORTED INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTERS and the DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (both cited in the Foreword).

Education

U.S. Office of Education. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTERS. A system of 19 clearinghouses spread across the country. Each clearinghouse treats a single topic within education. A Washington office coordinates the system and arranges for the publication of RESEARCH IN EDUCATION and CURRENT INDEX TO JOURNALS IN EDUCATION. The 19 clearinghouses are:

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON ADULT EDUCATION
Syracuse University
Syracuse, New York 13210 (315) 476-5571 x3493

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON COUNSELING AND PERSONNEL SERVICES
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 (313) 764-9492

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE DISADVANTAGED
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, New York 10027 (212) 870-4803

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801 (217) 333-1388

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403 (503) 342-1411 x1336

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 262-0197

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON EDUCATIONAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305 (415) 321-2300 x3345

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
The Council for Exceptional Children
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-9400 x601

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
George Washington University
Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 676-6506

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON JUNIOR COLLEGES
University of California at Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California 90024 (213) 825-3931

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404 (612) 373-7720

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON LINGUISTICS
Center for Applied Linguistics
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 265-3100

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON READING
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401 (812) 337-9101

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON RURAL EDUCATION AND SMALL SCHOOLS
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001 (505) 646-3825

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON SCIENCE EDUCATION
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43221 (614) 293-4121 x6717

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON TEACHER EDUCATION
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 223-9400 x611

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH
National Council of Teachers of English
Champaign, Illinois 61820 (217) 359-4751

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
Modern Language Association of America
New York, New York 10011 (212) 691-3200

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210 (614) 293-7351

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Room 1077A
963-5136

Answers inquiries on most aspects of education that can be summarized statistically. However, "the Center exercises appropriate caution in releasing information about individual schools, school systems...."

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. 963-5181

"Answers inquiries from the press and the public."

REGIONAL LABORATORIES

These offspring of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act have diverse programs and missions. The journalist is most likely to be interested in the activities of:

CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION
105 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016 (212) 889-7277

CUE has had much experience in desegregation and decentralization disputes. Special information files are maintained on these topics.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY
400 Lindsay Building
710 Southwest Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204 (503) 224-3650

"NWREL concentrates on the special educational needs caused by the region's inner city problems, rural isolation, and poverty."

RESEARCH FOR BETTER SCHOOLS
121 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
(215) 546-6050

RBS is involved in the individualized instruction movement that may become the next major educational revolution.

Public Health and Safety

BUREAU OF DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
Food and Drug Administration 20204
(703) 521-5600 x2387

Answers inquiries about "laws pertaining to the manufacture and distribution of depressant, stimulant,

and hallucinogenic drugs, and prescription drugs."

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Public Information Office
633 Indiana Ave., N.W. 20242 962-1070

INFORMATION CENTER FOR HEARING, SPEECH, AND DISORDERS OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION
310 Harriet Lane Home
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
Baltimore, Maryland 21205 (301) 955-3390

INSTITUTE FOR SEX RESEARCH
416 Morrison Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401 (812) 337-7686

A "clearinghouse of information concerning human sexuality."

MARGARET SANGER RESEARCH BUREAU
17 West 16th Street
New York, New York 10011 (212) 929-6200

A "center for service, education, and research in family planning and human fertility."

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
330 C Street, S.W. 20201 962-3278

Answers queries on the statistical aspects of public health, including birth rates, death rates, marriage and divorce statistics, hospital use, health manpower, etc.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH
222 East Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (513) 684-2354

Information on "the prevention and control of environmental hazards and health problems associated with urban living, transportation, and industry...."

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION
5454 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20203 496-0243

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR SMOKING AND HEALTH
4040 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22203 (703) 521-5600 x7377

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR POISON CONTROL CENTERS
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Md. 20910 (301) 495-5564

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Each of the National Institutes has an information office of some kind. Their collective address is National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014, and their collective telephone number is (301) 656-4000. They are:

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

NATIONAL HEART INSTITUTE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Md. 20014 (301) 656-4084

The custodians of NLM's 1,300,000 books, journals, theses, etc., should not be disturbed thoughtlessly, but they do offer to answer "telephone inquiries requiring a brief search." Implicitly those are professional-level inquiries, and general questions are better directed to:

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Office of the Surgeon General
Public Health Service
Building 31, Room 3A-24
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Md. 20017 (301) 496-1441

SAFETY RESEARCH INFORMATION SERVICE
National Safety Council
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Accepts, by *mail*, inquiries "of the broadest latitude concerning safety research."

VISION INFORMATION CENTER
Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine
10 Shattuck Street
Boston, Mass. 02115 (617) 734-3300 x103

Information on the visual sciences, including Ophthalmology. Primary audience is the biomedical community. "However, any appropriate request will be answered whenever possible."

Business, Labor, Employment, Economics

BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS
U.S. Department of Labor
400 1st St., N.W. 20210 961-2611
961-3496
961-2493

Responsible for several newsworthy topics, including minimum wage laws, wage garnishment, child labor, discrimination in employment, industrial relations, occupational safety and health, etc. The first of the three telephone numbers responds to questions on legislative standards, the second to questions on workmen's compensation, and the third to questions on occupational safety. You'll have to guess at the right number for other topics.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
441 G St., N.W. 20212 961-2913

Statistical summaries on employment and unemployment, manpower, consumer and wholesale prices, wages, etc. Services are also available at six regional offices (also called Bureau of Labor Statistics) which are sole repositories of some regional data:

18 Oliver Street
Boston, Mass. 02110 (617) 223-6761

341 9th Avenue
New York, New York 10001 (212) 971-5405

1371 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309 (404) 526-5418

219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 323-7230

450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102 (415) 556-4678

3rd Floor, Federal Office Building
911 Walnut Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106 (816) 374-2378

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22151 (703) 321-8500

"The Clearinghouse" (it needs no other name among information specialists) serves many purposes and many audiences. Its collections and services have grown beyond its legislative mandate within the Department of Commerce. Nonetheless, its primary theme is still the transfer of government-generated science and technology information into industry. CFSTI comes close to being a Library of Congress for the new tidal wave of reports generated by government agencies and their contractors. It accessions about 75,000 items each year. "The Clearinghouse ... provides reference and inquiry services to Government agencies and the general public, including ... searches for documents in specific areas of interest."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Public Information Division
1111 Constitution Ave., N.W. 20224 964-4021

"Provides information on tax matters to news media."

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
Division of Information
1717 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. 20570 382-4094

Information on labor practices, employee representation elections, administration of the NLRA, etc.

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS
Department of Commerce
1832 M St., N.W. 20235 (202) 967-3501

Information on "U.S. economy, including: gross national product; national income; personal income," etc. "Consultation on the interpretation and use of economic indicators is available to journalists and the academic and business communities."

Public Welfare

This is a miscellaneous category, beginning with that all-embracing and unclassifiable resource:

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Department of Commerce 20233 (301) 440-7203

Despite (or perhaps because of) its wealth of information on the people of the United States and their artifacts, the Bureau of the Census is not as responsive

to inquiries as some of the other government agencies. However, its services extend far beyond those of a library, and elaborate hedges to protect the confidentiality of Census information probably make this source look less accessible than is actually the case. Like other government agencies, the Bureau of the Census can be approached for answers to non-technical, non-prying questions.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
801 19th St., N.W. 20425 382-1228

"A clearinghouse for civil rights information."

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Information and Reception Center
Room 102, 1626 K St., N.W. 20410
382-8001

Information on HUD's four major programs:

(1) Demonstration programs and intergovernmental relations;

(2) Mortgage credit and federal housing;

(3) Metropolitan development; and

(4) Renewal and housing assistance.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION CENTER
Room 221, 1200 19th St., N.W. 20506
382-7417

Information on poverty; information on anti-poverty programs.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
Office of Legislation and Liaison
Room 607, 1724 F St., N.W. 20435
343-8025

Answers inquiries about military training and service, military manpower resources, emergency planning, conscientious objectors, etc.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Library
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, Md. 21235 (301) 944-5000 x2089

WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
330 Independence Ave., S.W. 20201
963-5418

Information on "assistance to individuals and families in need," ranging from the Cuban Refugee program to juvenile delinquency, and problems of aging.

In Closing, or, Until Next Time

Rapid change in this country has made print-bound information resources unacceptably slow by the clock of social decision-making. Yet rapid technological development has also made possible a speed, precision, and flexibility of information handling that could not have been imagined a few decades ago. The trend toward machine-aided person-to-person information service is clear. Journalists themselves have not been hanging back. For example, in the Russell Sage Foundation's Annual Report

(Supplement, May 1969), we find the notice of an award to Edward W. Barrett and the Academy of Educational Development to develop a Social Science Information Center: "These funds will be used for a one-year feasibility study which will also produce a detailed design for a social science information center. Dean Barrett and his colleagues will interview social scientists and media representatives to ascertain their willingness to use or contribute to its facilities."

If they don't watch out, finding information won't be a game any more.